GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2213
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
HIGHEST BPL POPULATION
Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of first five States in the country which have the highest percentage of population below the poverty line; and

(b) the special packages if any available for these States to boost their development activities in view of higher percentage of BPL population?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a): The Planning Commission estimates the percentage and number of persons living below the poverty line at national and state level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) following the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group of Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor. As per the latest available estimate of the percentage and number of persons living below the poverty line at national te level, available for the year 2004-05 based on the large sample survey of consumer expeand standiture data of the 61st Round of NSS, the first five States in the country, which have the highest percentage of population living below the poverty line are Orissa (46.4%), Bihar (41.4%), Chhatisgarh (40.9%), Jharkhand (40.3%) and Uttarakhand (39.6%). (The figures in the brackets are the percentage of people living below the poverty line in the state).

(b): The Planning Commission has not specifically prepared any special package to boost the development activities in the five above-mentioned states in view of highest percentage of population below the poverty line. However, state-specific need based special dispensations are made as and when warranted through existing programmes/schemes under Annual/Five Year Plans.